

NEWARK COMMISSION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION

Minutes of meeting held Tuesday, August 6th, in Room 100,  
Newark City Hall at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

William Brach  
Kenneth Carberry  
Agnes Coleman  
Henry Connor  
Peter Pasbjerg  
Thomas Spain  
Herbert Tate

Louis Danzig  
William Hodas  
John King  
Dr. McGrath, representing Dr. Kennolly  
Christopher Nugent  
Gayton Rotunda  
Louis Weiss

Members of the Press:

Luther Jackson, Newark Evening News  
Charles Garrity, Newark Star Ledger

Miss Coleman called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Mr. Spain suggested that the eighth word on page three of the minutes be changed to read "aid" rather than "subsidy". Motion that the minutes be approved with this correction was made by Mr. Spain, seconded by Mr. Connor and unanimously adopted.

Miss Coleman reported there will be a meeting with the sub-committee of the City Council before the August meeting of the Council. She reported she met with the Mayor, who has promised to give NCNCR prompt action on the matter of the Coordinator and stenographer. She said she had spoken to Mr. Torppey, who is preparing the resolutions that are necessary for the Urban Renewal Agencies. She said that Mr. Brach had offered his assistance. Mr. Brach said some assistance from the Housing Authority might be necessary. Mr. Danzig said he would be available for consultation.

Miss Coleman then introduced Miss Woodruff of the Newark Museum. Miss Woodruff said that the Museum is undertaking an exhibition on Newark which will open in mid September and continue for four months. Miss Woodruff said the exhibition will cover government, recreation, education, industry, housing, etc. in Newark. She said they would like to present the story of the NCNCR. She asked that NCNCR participate in this exhibition.

Mr. Spain moved that the NCNCR participate and cooperate wherever possible in this endeavor. Motion seconded by Mr. Carberry and unanimously adopted.

Miss Coleman then introduced Rev. Hallett and Mr. Stanley Winters of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council. Mr. Winters stated that the Associated Community Council at their last meeting approved a number of motions supporting the amendments to the Housing Code. He

stated their group would try to get public opinion mobilized in order to get this code amended. He said the group did feel that if the new ordinance is passed, enforcement procedures should be implemented. He then brought out the fact that the rooming house situation is a case in point. He stated that not one rooming house has been closed.

Mr. Weiss said that the Building Department is trying to abate the zoning violations, but that to do an effective job all rooming houses should be licensed. He said that certain parts of the ordinance pertaining to plumbing, floor space and hot water should contain a time provision, giving property owners opportunity to comply with the regulations.

Judge Hodges stated that it would be best if a specified period of time were fixed in the ordinance. He said he thought six months would be a reasonable period of time.

Mr. Brach moved that it be the recommendation of the NCNCR that the Housing Code amendments incorporate a provision that certain sections which deal with major improvements not become operative until six months after passage and approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Carberry and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Connor suggested that this ordinance be put into laymen's language and be distributed to all the property owners in the city so that they will know the provisions of the ordinance over a six-month period. He said it might be mailed out with the tax bills.

Mr. Brach said it might be well to include the story of NCNCR in a mailing such as this.

Mr. Connor moved that this matter be referred to Mr. Spain's committee for investigation and report. Motion seconded by Mr. Carberry and unanimously adopted.

Miss Coleman referred the matter to Mr. Spain.

Mr. King stated he felt that the use of basements as living quarters in frame structures should be prohibited.

Mr. Connor moved that the NCNCR recommend to the Law Department that the use of basement apartments in frame structures be prohibited and this provision incorporated into the amendments to the Housing Code. Motion seconded by Mr. Carberry and unanimously adopted.

Mr. King said he would put his recommendations into draft form.

Mr. Pasbjerg reported that the work on appraising the houses in the Clinton Hill project area was about 38% completed.

Miss Coleman stated while making the appraisals, they had found conditions of overcrowding and many situations that would have to be looked into. She stated she would report them to Mr. Arthur of the Building Department.

Mr. Brach discussed the memorandum on the Clinton Hill project and stated that a correction on page three would be necessary. He

said he would draft the addition that should be added to this page.

Miss Coleman suggested that further discussion on the memo be made at the next regular meeting on August 20, prior to which distribution of the corrected memorandum will be made.

Mr. Connor stated that it was his understanding that the City would name a specific agency for each specific project. Mr. Danzig said that whoever undertakes the project must have the power of rehabilitation.

Mr. Connor suggested that Mr. Brach take this matter up with the Law Department of the City.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.